

Perfect quantum error correction coding in 24 laser pulses

Samuel L. Braunstein

Universität Ulm, Abteilung Quantenphysik, 89069 Ulm, Germany

**SEECs, University of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1UT, UK*

John A. Smolin

IBM Research Division, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

(August 28, 2006)

An efficient coding circuit is given for the perfect quantum error correction of a single qubit against arbitrary 1-qubit errors within a 5 qubit code. The circuit presented employs a double ‘classical’ code, i.e., one for bit flips and one for phase shifts. An implementation of this coding circuit on an ion-trap quantum computer is described that requires 26 laser pulses. A further circuit is presented requiring only 24 laser pulses, making it an efficient protection scheme against arbitrary 1-qubit errors. In addition, the performance of two error correction schemes, one based on the quantum Zeno effect and the other using standard methods, is compared. The quantum Zeno error correction scheme is found to fail completely for a model of noise based on phase-diffusion.

03.65.-w, 89.70.+c, 89.80.+h, 02.70.-c

Quantum error correction schemes [1–8] hold the promise of reliable storage, processing and transfer of quantum information. They actively ‘isolate’ a quantum system from perturbations, which would otherwise decohere the state [9,10]. How quickly this decoherence occurs depends to a large extent on what degrees of freedom are involved: single- or many-body, electronic, nuclear, etc. In principle, however, the development of quantum error correction allows one to decouple a quantum state from arbitrary few-particle perturbations.

The decoupling in quantum error correction schemes is achieved by unitarily ‘rotating’ the state into one involving a larger number of degrees of freedom. In this larger space the information about the original state is recorded only in multi-particle correlations. Thus, if only a few particles undergo decohering perturbations, the multi-particle correlations are not destroyed, but only mixed amongst each other. After determining which few particle perturbation has occurred we can unmix the multi-particle correlations and hence reconstruct the original state. If, by contrast, decohering perturbations accumulate over too many particles then the multi-particle correlations are no longer isolated and the error correction begins to break down.

In this paper an efficient coding circuit for arbitrary single-qubit errors is given. Its efficiency is quantified relative to a specific quantum computer model — Cirac and Zoller’s ion-trap model [11]. Next, two schemes designed to protect against single-qubit phase-noise are studied. One scheme relies on the quantum Zeno effect [12,13] and uses two qubits to protect against ‘slow’ perturbations of the system; the other is a more conventional quantum error correction scheme [6,7,14] that requires three qubits to protect against arbitrary single-particle dephasing. The poor behavior of the Zeno schemes is

discussed and explained.

EFFICIENT CODING

Various authors [4,5,8] have presented circuits implementing a 5-qubit which protects one qubit of quantum information. This code is described as ‘perfect’ since it allows for the complete correction of arbitrary single qubit errors. (The term qubit [15] represents the amount of ‘quantum’ information stored in an arbitrary two-state quantum system.) In this section a simpler version of the Laflamme *et al* coding circuit [5] is presented. We discuss the structure of the circuit and consider its efficiency. The measure of efficiency used [16] is the number of laser pulses required to implement the scheme on an ion-trap quantum computer. A second circuit yielding a slightly different version of this code was found by a computer search and is the most efficient circuit so far constructed for one-bit encoding.

Fig. 1 shows our simplification of the 5-bit coding circuit of Laflamme *et al* [5]. This circuit uses single particle rotations

$$\hat{U} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

represented by the square ‘one-qubit’ gates in the circuit, and two-particle controlled-NOT gates

$$\oplus = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \quad | \\ \boxed{\hat{U}^\dagger} \text{---} \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \text{---} \boxed{\hat{U}} \end{array}; \quad (2)$$

here the \oplus notation is chosen because of the equality of the controlled-NOT operation and the mathematical

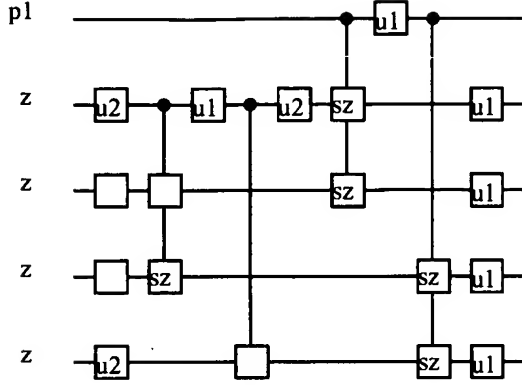


FIG. 2. Circuit from Fig. 1 rewritten in terms of the gate-primitives of an ion-trap quantum computer [11]. The single 2-qubit gate is the conditional $\hat{\sigma}_z$ operation defined in Eq. (2) and pairs of them are drawn as 3-qubit gates. Each single qubit rotation requires one laser pulse, the 2-qubit gate requires three pulses, and the 3-qubit gates if implemented as single elements require only four laser pulses each [16]. This circuit, therefore, uses a total of 26 laser pulses.

$$\hat{V} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{W} = \hat{V}\hat{U}^\dagger. \quad (6)$$

As shown it requires only 24 laser pulses, not counting further speedups such as parallelizing the operation of several of its one-bit gates.

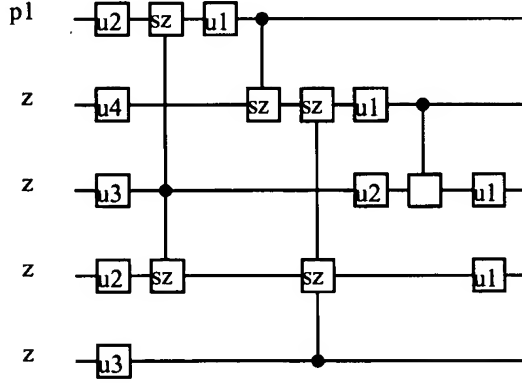


FIG. 3. The best known circuit for encoding a single qubit in a five-qubit error correction code. As shown 24 laser pulses would be required to implement this circuit on an ion-trap quantum computer.

An alternative method of error correction has been suggested by Vaidman *et al* [13]. Its operation involves a circuit which can provide only error detection *not* error correction; however, by sufficiently rapid operation of the circuit the quantum Zeno effect allows it to ‘turn off’ the relatively slow errors. Using the quantum Zeno effect it corrects for *small* single-particle perturbations of the system rather than the arbitrary single-particle errors of the standard schemes. Nonetheless, quantum Zeno error

correction has the advantage of only requiring 4 qubits. Further, we find that the coding and decoding may each be executed using as few as 16 laser pulses with possibly only one extra for the auxiliary qubit resetting. How effective are these error correction schemes that rely on the quantum Zeno effect? We shall now evaluate their performance for correcting phase-diffusion noise.

ZENO- VERSUS STANDARD QUANTUM-ERROR-CORRECTION

In this section we compare the performance of Zeno and standard methods for quantum error correction. Rather than considering the schemes discussed in the previous section, however, we study simpler schemes which protect only against 1-qubit dephasing. In particular, we compare a compact 2-qubit code given by Chuang and Laflamme [12], and independently by Vaidman *et al* [13] versus a standard 3-qubit code [6,7,14]. The 2-qubit scheme relies on the quantum Zeno effect to correct for *small* deviations in the system’s state; whereas the 3-qubit code can correct for arbitrary 1-qubit dephasing. How do these schemes compare?

Figs. 4 and 5 show complete coding and decoding circuits for both schemes. Clearly, the Zeno scheme uses fewer resources and requires fewer gates to operate so it has a distinct implementational advantage over the more conventional schemes.

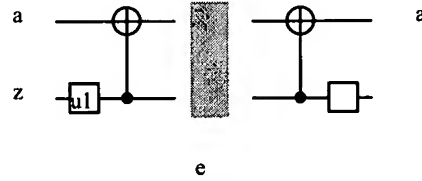


FIG. 4. Quantum Zeno error correction scheme [12,13]. Both coding and decoding circuits are shown. (The shaded region represents 1-qubit dephasing.)

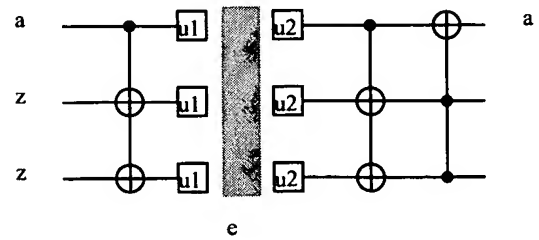


FIG. 5. Standard quantum 1-bit dephasing correction scheme [14]. Both coding and decoding circuits are shown.

Our model for dephasing assumes that the phase in

each qubit undergoes an independent random walk according to

$$\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \rightarrow \alpha|0\rangle + \beta e^{i\phi(t)}|1\rangle, \quad (7)$$

(up to normalization) where the perturbing phases $\phi(t)$ are given by the Ito stochastic calculus [20] with:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(0) &= 0 \\ \langle\langle d\phi(t) \rangle\rangle &= 0 \\ \langle\langle d\phi(t) d\phi(t') \rangle\rangle &= 2\delta(t-t')dt, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

etc., where $d\phi(t)$ is the Ito differential and the doubled angle brackets represent stochastic averages. Eq. (7) therefore describes our model of the shaded regions in Figs. 4 and 5.

How do each of the above error correction circuits work if applied only after the dephasing has acted for a time t ? Delaying the decoding circuit in Fig. 4 for a time t after the coding yields

$$\hat{\rho}_0 \equiv \begin{pmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & \bar{\beta}\alpha \\ \bar{\alpha}\beta & |\beta|^2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & e^{-t}\bar{\beta}\alpha \\ e^{-t}\bar{\alpha}\beta & |\beta|^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

here $\hat{\rho}_0$ is the initial density matrix for the qubit $|\psi\rangle$; i.e., there is no improvement using the Zeno error correction scheme for this model of noise even for short times! A similar result was noted by Chuang and Laflamme [12].

By contrast, a delay for time t in circuit 5 before decoding yields

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\rho}_0 &\rightarrow (2 + 3e^{-t} - e^{-3t})\hat{\rho}_0/4 \\ &+ (2 + e^{-3t} - 3e^{-t})\hat{\sigma}_x\hat{\rho}_0\hat{\sigma}_x/4, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

with $\hat{\sigma}_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ being one of the standard Pauli matrices.

A measure of (relative) coherence between a pair of states is given by the absolute value of the off-diagonal terms in the density matrix $\hat{\rho}(t)$ [21]

$$C(t) \equiv \left| \frac{\langle 1|\hat{\rho}(t)|0\rangle}{\langle 1|\hat{\rho}_0(t)|0\rangle} \right|. \quad (11)$$

The 2-qubit Zeno error correction scheme yields

$$C_{2\text{-qubit}}(t) = e^{-t}, \quad (12)$$

whereas the standard 3-qubit scheme has a coherence bounded by its worst case

$$C_{3\text{-qubit}}(t) \geq (3e^{-t} - e^{-3t})/2. \quad (13)$$

Finally, we note that n evenly spaced repetitions in a time t of an error correction scheme will yield an improved coherence C according to

$$C^{n\text{-shot}}(t) = [C(t/n)]^n. \quad (14)$$

The performance of the Zeno 2-qubit scheme, conventional 3-qubit scheme and a 10-fold repetition of the latter are displayed in Fig. 6.

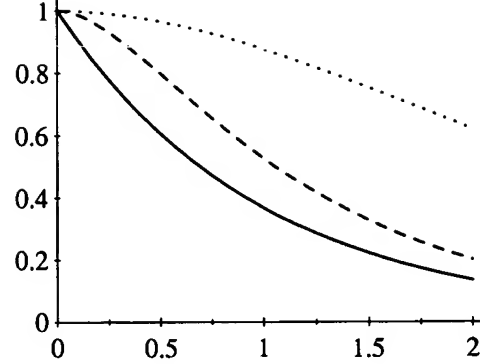


FIG. 6. Measure of coherence for: no error correction (solid line); the Zeno error correction scheme of Fig. 4 at time t (solid line); the 3-qubit scheme of Fig. 5 at time t (dashed line, representing the lower bound); and the 10-fold repetition of the 3-qubit scheme by time t (dotted line, representing the lower bound).

Why does the Zeno error correction scheme fail to work for the noise model of Eq. (7) even at short times? Put simply, the random walk model for dephasing implies that the expected deviation of the phase grows as \sqrt{t} instead of t . The error, therefore, accumulates too quickly for the Zeno scheme.

The random walk model of noise really has two time scales: the typical time between random steps and the much longer dephasing time. The stochastic calculus approach assumes that the former of these time scales is so short as to be negligible. This means that in this model of noise no matter how quickly we operate the Zeno error correction scheme many stochastic steps have occurred. The averaging over these many random steps in phase produces a perturbation that overwhelms the linear correction to the state. However, the Zeno error correction schemes discussed above [12,13] require that the change in the system's state be dominated by linear terms. The implications are that phase diffusion is *not* corrected by these Zeno error correction schemes unless they are repeatedly used at a rate faster than the typical time between random steps of the phase — the phase-diffusion time itself is already much too slow. How fast does this need to be in practice? That depends on the detailed source of the phase diffusion: For instance, it might be relatively slow (though still faster than the phase diffusion time) when the principle source of noise is due to external mechanical noise. Other models, however, are very much faster: Unruh's [9] study of decoherence due to vacuum fluctuations in the electromagnetic field coupling to a qubit yielded a time-scale comparable to X-ray frequencies.

It is worth mentioning two error 'stabilization' schemes which utilize the Zeno effect: Zurek [23] has outlined a

scheme which averages several copies of a computation, and Berthiaume *et al* [24,25] have considered in some detail a scheme which projects several copies of a computation to the symmetric state. Because these schemes evenly spread errors over several copies of a computation rather than attempt to correct them it may be that they circumvent the problem with dephasing discussed here. We leave this question open for further study.

Quantum error correction of arbitrary single-qubit errors is rather costly of computing resources: a minimum of five qubits and possibly 24 laser pulses for coding (decoding being only slightly more expensive [17]). This might be compared with the resources required to execute a moderate unprotected calculation; Beckman *et al* [16] show that the Shor algorithm could be implemented on 6 trapped ions using only 38 laser pulses to factor the number 15 [22]. Alternate error correction schemes based on the quantum Zeno effect are much more efficient to implement. However, they fail for simple models of decoherence, such as the model of phase diffusion considered here.

In conclusion, because error correction is virtually as expensive as the simplest error-correction-free computations, it appears unlikely that full quantum error correction will be implemented for computational purposes in the first few generations of quantum computers. Instead, quantum error correction will probably initially play an important role in the long term storage of quantum information: implementing a true quantum memory.

APPENDIX: QUANTUM NETWORKS ON ION TRAPS

In this appendix we describe how controlled double $\hat{\sigma}_z$ operations may be performed in four laser pulses on a Cirac-Zoller ion trap quantum computer [11]. These operations are the *three*-qubit operations seen in Fig. 2. Labeling the ground and excited states of ion i as $|g\rangle_i$ and $|e\rangle_i$ respectively, and the Fock state of the center-of-mass vibrational mode of the trap as $|n\rangle_{\text{cm}}$ we summarize two important operations: A suitably tuned π -pulse on ion i yields the operation [11,16]

$$\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(i)} : \begin{cases} |g\rangle_i |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |g\rangle_i |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |g\rangle_i |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow -i|e\rangle_i |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_i |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow -i|g\rangle_i |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_i |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |e\rangle_i |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

whereas, a differently tuned 2π -pulse on ion j yields [11,16]

$$\hat{V}^{(j)} : \begin{cases} |g\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |g\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |g\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow -|g\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |e\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |e\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

Finally, another appropriately tuned π -pulse on ion j yields [11,16]

$$\hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(j)} : \begin{cases} |g\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |g\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |g\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow -i|e'\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |e\rangle_j |0\rangle_{\text{cm}} \\ |e\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \rightarrow |e\rangle_j |1\rangle_{\text{cm}} \end{cases}, \quad (17)$$

where $|e'\rangle_j$ is a *different* excited state of ion j .

Using these operations and taking the trap's vibrational mode initially in the ground state $|0\rangle_{\text{cm}}$ we find

$$\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(i)\dagger} \hat{V}^{(k)} \hat{V}^{(j)} \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(i)} : \quad (18)$$

$$|\epsilon\rangle_i |\eta_1\rangle_j |\eta_2\rangle_k \rightarrow (-1)^{\eta_1 \epsilon} (-1)^{\eta_2 \epsilon} |\epsilon\rangle_i |\eta_1\rangle_j |\eta_2\rangle_k.$$

This completes the construction of the controlled double $\hat{\sigma}_z$ operation. We note that this construction requires only four laser pulses as opposed to the six required to perform the two controlled $\hat{\sigma}_z$ operations separately.

In order to see how to generalize this approach let us introduce a different notation. We start by labeling the states to be acted on by $|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \eta_1, \eta_2, \dots\rangle$ where the ϵ_j represents the j th control bit and η_k represents the k th control bit. When only a single of either kind of bit occurs we drop the corresponding subscript. Then we introduce a *space-time* diagram of events on the ion-trap to replace the usual circuit notation. In these space-time diagrams the horizontal lines represent the world lines of the ions (in an exactly analogous way that they do in the usual circuits). Finally, we superpose on these world lines the events corresponding to an appropriately tuned laser on each ion. In this way Eq. (18) becomes:

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \\ \downarrow \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{c} \text{--- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \end{array} \end{array} \quad (19)$$

$$= (-i)^\epsilon (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_1} (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_2} (+i)^\epsilon$$

$$= (-1)^{\eta_1 \epsilon} (-1)^{\eta_2 \epsilon},$$

where $\bar{\eta} \equiv (1 - \eta)$. Reading from left to right this circuit decomposes to $\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)\dagger} \hat{V}^{(3)} \hat{V}^{(2)} \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)}$ where now we must explicitly add the numbers of the ions. Since these circuits only involve conditional phase changes it is sufficient to ask what phases accumulate as we operate the various pulses. We see that whenever there is an *even* number of phases to be flipped (i.e., an even number of \hat{V} pulses) that the phases accumulated from pulses on the control bits are unwanted and need to be cancelled by applying the inverse operation the second time around. In particular, here we apply $\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger$ the second time since we applied \hat{W}_{phon} the first. Similarly, below where we make use of \hat{V}_{phon} for a second and further control bit we must use $\hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger$ the second time whenever there are an even

number of bits to have their phases flipped (i.e., an even number of \hat{V} 's).

We now give two more example constructions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \\ | \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{c} \text{--- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^\dagger \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \end{array} \quad (20) \\
 &= (-i)^{\epsilon_1} (-i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_2 \epsilon_1} (-i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_1 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} \\
 &\quad \times (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_2 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (+i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (+i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_2 \epsilon_1} (+i)^{\epsilon_1} \\
 &= (-1)^{\eta_1 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\eta_2 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1},
 \end{aligned}$$

which corresponds to the series of laser pulses

$$\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)\dagger} \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(2)\dagger} \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(3)\dagger} \hat{V}^{(5)} \hat{V}^{(4)} \hat{V}^{(3)} \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(2)} \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)}, \quad (21)$$

and as a final example:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \\ | \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \\ | \\ \boxed{\hat{\sigma}_z} \end{array} \equiv \begin{array}{c} \text{--- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{W}_{\text{phon}} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}} \text{ --- } \hat{V}_{\text{phon}} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \\ \text{--- } \hat{V} \text{ ---} \end{array} \quad (22) \\
 &= (-i)^{\epsilon_1} (-i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_1 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} \\
 &\quad \times (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_2 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\bar{\eta}_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-i)^{\bar{\epsilon}_2 \epsilon_1} (-i)^{\epsilon_1} \\
 &= (-1)^{\eta_1 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\eta_2 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1} (-1)^{\eta_3 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_1},
 \end{aligned}$$

which corresponds to the series of laser pulses

$$\hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)} \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(2)} \hat{V}^{(5)} \hat{V}^{(4)} \hat{V}^{(3)} \hat{V}_{\text{phon}}^{(2)} \hat{W}_{\text{phon}}^{(1)}. \quad (23)$$

The authors thank the ISI for giving them the opportunity to collaborate; SLB appreciated the support of a Humboldt fellowship and discussions with N. Cohen and D. DiVincenzo.

* Permanent address.

- [1] P. W. Shor, Phys. Rev. A **52**, R2493 (1995).
- [2] A. R. Calderbank and P. W. Shor, "Good quantum error-correcting codes exist," preprint quant-ph/9512032.

- [3] A. Steane, Error correcting codes in quantum theory, submitted to Phys. Rev. Lett.
- [4] J.A. Smolin, "Purification of mixed entangled states and quantum channel capacity", Joint Mathematics Meetings of the AMS, January 1996, Orlando. This work was later published in [8].
- [5] R. Laflamme, C. Miquel, J. P. Paz and W. H. Zurek, Phys. Rev. Lett. **77**, 198 (1996).
- [6] A. Steane, "Multiple particle interference and quantum error correction," preprint quant-ph/9601029, to appear in Proc. Roy. Soc. London.
- [7] A. Ekert and C. Macchiavello, "Quantum error correction for communication," preprint quant-ph/9602022.
- [8] C. H. Bennett, D. P. DiVincenzo, J. A. Smolin and W. K. Wootters, "Mixed state entanglement and quantum error correction," quant-ph/9604024.
- [9] W. G. Unruh, Phys. Rev. A **51**, 992 (1995).
- [10] R. Landauer, Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London, Ser. A **353**, 367 (1996).
- [11] J. I. Cirac and P. Zoller, Phys. Rev. Lett. **74**, 4091 (1995).
- [12] I. L. Chuang and R. Laflamme, "Quantum Error Correction by Coding," quant-ph/9511003.
- [13] L. Vaidman, L. Goldenberg and S. Wiesner, "Error prevention scheme with four particles," quant-ph/9603031.
- [14] S. L. Braunstein, "Quantum error correction of dephasing in 3 qubits," quant-ph/9603024.
- [15] R. Jozsa and B. Schumacher, J. Mod. Opt. **41**, 2343 (1994); B. Schumacher, Phys. Rev. A **51**, 2738 (1995).
- [16] D. Beckman, A. N. Chari, S. Devabhaktuni and J. Preskill, "Efficient networks for quantum factoring," Caltech preprint CALT-68-2021, quant-ph/9602016.
- [17] Just how many extra operations are required to complete decoding depends on whether it is done by added circuitry, or by external observation of the state of the auxiliary qubits. When the necessity of re-initializing the auxiliary qubits is included it appears that as few as three extra 'clock cycles' should be required for the external-observation schemes since most of the operations act only on single particles and so could probably be executed in parallel.
- [18] Indeed, it is likely that many of the operations can be run in parallel. For instance, if the block of unitary operations at the beginning and ending of Fig. 2 are executed in parallel then the entire circuit would be completed in only 20 clock cycles.
- [19] Optimization depends on the detailed structure of the circuit which was not given in Ref. [8].
- [20] C. W. Gardiner, *Handbook of Stochastic Methods* (Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1983); L. Arnold, *Stochastic Differential Equations* (Wiley, New York, 1973).
- [21] S. L. Braunstein, Phys. Rev. A **45**, 6803 (1992).
- [22] The smallest number for which Shor's algorithm strictly applies is 15.
- [23] W. H. Zurek, Phys. Rev. Lett. **53**, 391 (1984).
- [24] A. Berthiaume, D. Deutsch and R. Jozsa, in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Physics and Computation — PhysComp94* (IEEE Computer Society Press, Dallas, Texas).
- [25] A. Barenco, A. Berthiaume, D. Deutsch, A. Ekert, R. Jozsa and C. Macchiavello, "Stabilization of quantum computations by symmetrization," quant-ph/9604028.